



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

No. 87

Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Precious Lord, we praise You because You provide us with a lifetime of blessings. You are the foundation of all that is good in our lives, keeping us from neglecting Your plans for our future, as You prepare us to stand in Your presence without a single fault.

Lord, prosper the work of our Senators. Make their efforts as secure as the mountains. Inspire them to strive less for success and more for faithfulness. Guide them to hate evil, pride, arrogance, and corruption. Remind them that their future is in Your hands.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION RELATING TO "UPDATE OF COMMISSION'S CONCILIATION PROCEDURES"—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 13, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S.J. Res. 13) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to "Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures".

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

JANUARY 6 COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so the Spanish philosopher, Jorge Santayana, is credited with the saying, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

When it comes to January 6, we would all do well to heed that advice. But right now, there is an effort on the part of the House Republican leader-

ship to make sure we forget that that fateful day ever happened.

Later today, the House will vote on establishing an independent Commission to investigate the events of January 6, a complement to the investigation in the House and Senate committees. Both sides negotiated for months. The House Republican leader made three specific requests in February. All three were granted by House Democrats. Modeled after the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, it will have equal representation from both Democrats and Republicans. Subpoenas can only be issued if Members from both sides agree.

It appeared we had reached a consensus with the support of rank-and-file Republicans and, frankly, I thought the Speaker was being very generous because subpoena power is so important when you look into something, but she did that. I salute her for it. But even when she went that far, at the eleventh hour, the House Republican leadership turned tail, threw its own negotiators under the bus, and decided to try to sabotage the Commission. Once again, they are caving to Donald Trump and proving that the Republican Party is still drunk off the Big Lie.

Just one week after House Republicans fired Congresswoman CHENEY for simply telling the truth about the election, their new leadership is trying to kill a bipartisan investigation—a very down-the-middle bipartisan investigation—of the attack on our Capitol.

At the root of both efforts is the shameful desire to protect Donald Trump and perpetuate the Big Lie, even though it undermines our democracy, because when people don't believe elections are on the level, that is the beginning of the end of a democracy.

What the Republicans are doing—the House Republicans—is beyond crazy. To be so far under the thumb of Donald J. Trump, letting the most dishonest President in American history dictate

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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